

accidents during the absence of the earl. Scotland seems, as well as England, to have made slow progress in its use: in the year 1661 only the upper part of the windows of the palace itself were glazed, the lower part being closed by wooden shutters. Although it was not much used in England, it made considerable progress in France; but it was not until the middle of the seventeenth century that the manufacture was firmly established there, Colbert giving encouragement to some French artists, who had learned the art at Venice. The chief articles produced by these manufacturers were mirrors of blown glass,—the introduction of cast glass mirrors being effected by a manufacturer named Thevart some twenty years later, who, after experiencing great opposition from the old company, was obliged to unite with it; and it was not till the formation of a new company on the ruins of the old united one, that the manufacture became prosperous.

The manufacture of flint glass was commenced in England in the year 1557 at Crutched Friars and Savoy House in the Strand; and in 1635 considerable improvement was effected by Sir Robert Mansell substituting coal for wood fuel. The first plates of blown glass for mirrors and coach windows produced in this country were made in Lambeth in 1673, by some Venetian artisans, under the auspices of the Duke of Buckingham. There was no English establishment of importance for the manufacture of east plate glass till the year 1773, nearly a century after its introduction into France, when a company was incorporated by royal charter, and established works at Ravenhead, in Lancashire. It appears strange that the Chinese, who have anticipated the Europeans in many matters, should have been ignorant of glass-making, especially when we consider the operations of their porcelain manufacture, and the glazes which are used in it are such as might be supposed likely to lead to the discovery of glass. Even now the only glass-house in the Chinese empire, so far as is known, is one at Canton, in which only old and broken glass of foreign manufacture is remelted and worked again.

G. J. RHODES.

#### NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The enclosure at Portland breakwater, we understand, is to be named the Victoria Harbour of Refuge.—The projected improvement of the entrance into Winchester Cathedral precincts from the Square, by removal of an ancient house, and enlargement of the Mechanics' Institution, has commenced.—The Gloucestershire Chronicle informs us that the restoration of Uplendon Church, in that district, has been completed. The old church had fallen into a sad state of decay. The floor was so damp that it grew weeds in some places, and the pews were in a wretched state. The ancient Norman windows had been filled with common casements, or partially blocked up, and on the outside earth had accumulated to the depth of 3 feet. All the pews have been replaced by open sittings with carved benches. A simple lectern has been substituted for a cumbrous reading-desk. The old wooden roofs have been stripped, cleaned, and varnished. The windows have been restored, and the east window filled with stained glass by Mr. Rogers, of Worcester. The chancel has been raised two steps above the aisle, and laid with Painswick stone, in lozenges. Oak communion rails, after an Early English example, enclose the communion-table, which stands on a floor of encaustic tiles in eight compartments. This restoration has cost 370*l.*, and has been carried out chiefly by the incumbent, warmly seconded by the farmers in the parish. After the re-opening on Thursday week, the foundation-stone of a new school-room was laid by the Hon. Mrs. Sayers, near the parsonage: Mr. Cullis, builder.—The foundation-stone of Landscope new district church, near Totnes, was laid on Tuesday week, in the presence of a large concourse of people, by the Rev. W. Martin. This church will be dedicated to St. Mary, and is, we understand, the gift of Miss Champemowne, the dean and chapter of Exeter providing the ground and the endowment. The architect is Mr. J. L. Pearson, of London; and the builder Mr. John Mason, of

Exeter.—A new butter cross, to accommodate 200 to 300 people, is to be erected at Knighton, according to a correspondent of the *Hereford Times*.—At a late meeting of the Birmingham Street-Act Commissioners, Mr. J. Arnold read a letter from Mr. Pigott Smith, who suggested the propriety of an architect being employed to examine the state of the spire of St. Martin's Church, as, in case of its falling, life might be sacrificed.—Mr. J. H. Beilby said, that as much alarm had been created relative to the statements with respect to St. Martin's spire, apprehension might perhaps be allayed by his stating that two eminent architects had lately inspected it, and were of opinion that not the slightest danger exists.—The new buildings of the west wing of Queen's College, Birmingham, from the plans of Messrs. Drury and Bateman, which comprise a suite of rooms of 154 feet in length, for model rooms, library, &c., two additional lecture halls, engineering workshops, and twenty-six additional sets of chambers for resident students, are in rapid progress towards completion, under the contract with Mr. James Mountford, builder.—The laying of the foundation-stone of the New Wesleyan Chapel, Hill Top, West Bromwich, took place on Monday in last week. The chapel is intended to accommodate 1,000 persons, at an estimated cost of 2,000*l.*, the greater part of which has been subscribed. The architect is Mr. James Simpson, of Leeds, and the builder, Mr. John Lees, Hill Top.—The new Town Hall or Corn Exchange at Stourbridge was opened on Tuesday week. The hall is 70 feet long by about 40 feet wide, and is capable of dining 300 persons. There are two entrances—one from the main entrance to the Market Place, opening into High-street, and the other from the Rye Market. Mr. E. Smith, of Oldswinford, was the architect and builder, and the cost of building was 550*l.*

—The Altrincham Town Hall and Market Hall is rapidly approaching completion. The brick-work is raised to the full height, the roof timbers are being laid, and the centre of the front has been surmounted by the timber frame-work of the clock and bell-turret. The Market Hall will be 29 feet by 25 feet, and 12 feet 6 inches in height, besides an additional space at the back of 20 feet by 10 feet 6 inches. The Town Hall or Assembly Room will be 39 feet 6 inches by 26 feet, with an ante-room behind of 16 feet 6 inches by 10 feet 6 inches.—Thirty new houses only have been built in Lancaster during the last year; all of them occupied at good rents. They were all engaged, we believe, before the second story was reared. It has been stated that good small houses pay 13 per cent. upon the outlay.—At the entrance to Rotherham from the bridge, a line of crazy buildings is to be demolished, and the street thereby widened. A new street at right angles with Bridge-gate, opposite the end of College-street, and to extend to the river, has also been projected by the feoffees and rat-payers.—From a report of the committee for conducting the subscription for the restoration of Hexham Abbey Church, it appears that the total amount received was 1,599*l.* 3*s.*, and the sum expended in purchasing and pulling down houses encumbering the east front of the Abbey Church was 1,431*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, leaving a balance in the treasurer's hands of 127*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* It was resolved, that an effort be made to raise the sum (350*l.*) necessary to purchase and pull down the remaining houses, and to put the Lady Chapel in such a state of repair as to prevent it from falling to decay; and that the subscription be then closed, trusting that at some future time the complete restoration of the building may be accomplished.—The church of Aincote, parish of Althorpe, Lincolnshire, suddenly fell down on Tuesday week before last. The rector, the Rev. James Aspinall, had observed a yielding of one of the walls two or three weeks before, and had, consequently, performed the service in the school-room. It was a very old building, and the immediate cause of its fall was the increased weight of the thatched roof occasioned by a shower of rain.—A correspondent of the *Chelmsford Chronicle* states that, in addition to the church now erecting at Romford, several improvements are about to be carried into effect. The large loam pond at the top of market place is to be converted into a fountain, and, with an artesian well, will provide the whole town with pure

water. A new county court, with a literary institution combined, will form another feature, together with a dispensary. The removal of several dilapidated buildings and the turnpike from the town is projected, with other local improvements.

#### COLOUR IN DECORATION.

I WAS much interested with the observations, in the last number of "THE BUILDER," by Mr. Gilbert J. French, "on the arrangement of colours in ancient decorative art." Mr. French having evidently made a careful research into the rules which guided the ancient decorator, it was satisfactory to me to find how closely they corresponded with what I had myself observed.

In the examples that I have examined, which consist of some of the coloured decorations to be found among our old churches, the first, second, and fourth laws, with certain trifling exceptions, are invariably followed. The third rule is not much used, except in stained glass. I would also notice, how fond the ancient decorators appear to have been of alternating red with green: blue being used more sparingly, and confined very much to soffits, the ground of small groining, panels of ceilings, or, any part where it may be supposed to represent the sky. Red appears, however, to have been the colour most used, especially in the earlier decorations, where frequently red, relieved by the stone colour of the walls, was almost the only colour employed. Red and white was at all times a favourite diaper.

Gold was not much used in the decoration of buildings until the 14th century, at least I have not met with any example. At this date it became almost an invariable rule to gild all carved parts which were foliated. Sculpture may be said, generally, to be coloured "proper."

In your account of the doings of the Archaeological Institute at Salisbury, I see no mention made of the coloured decorations of the cathedral. Although all covered up with white or yellow wash, except a little in the chapter house and the passage leading thereto, they were at one time very considerable. Traces of magnificent scrolls and other forms may be still seen through the whitewash upon the groining and walls of the choir, which, judging by the little which is uncovered, must be of a very superior description.

It is a pity that the proper authorities do not take the means of bringing them once more to light, by carefully brushing off the whitewash, as they are doing in the Lady Chapel at Ely.

JAMES K. COLLING.

#### ON THE USE OF THE PEAT BOGS OF IRELAND.

At a meeting of the Botanical Society of London, held on the 3rd inst., Mr. J. W. Rogers brought under the consideration of the meeting the purport of his paper read at the previous meeting of the society held on the 6th July last, "On the uses and properties of the peat moss, and the value of peat charcoal as a disinfectant and fertilizer." It may be necessary to mention that by the aid of peat charcoal, Mr. Rogers purposes to consolidate and deodorize the solid matter of the London sewers, and, whilst by that means benefiting the inhabitants of the metropolis, there would be placed within the reach of the agriculturist a manure of the most powerful kind, pulverized, free from odour, and fit for transit by any conveyance. In 1845 he brought the subject under the consideration of the public, and it was then alleged that charcoal could not give that quantity of carbon to the leaf of the plant which it was necessary it should receive, and that the leaf, and not the root, being the portion of it which required such sustenance, his discovery was of no use. Often, however, since then he had tried the experiment, and the result had invariably been that it was the root, and not the leaf of the plant, which attracted the carbon, and therefore he was more convinced of the propriety of the system he was endeavouring to promulgate. From the experiments he had made, he had found that peat charcoal possessed far superior advantages to what wood charcoal did.